



Appropriations Update

Committee on the Budget • Majority Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
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CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006 (H.J.RES. 68)

SUMMARY

The continuing appropriations resolution (H.J.Res. 68) would result in total non-emergency spending for 2006 of \$813.995 billion in budget authority [BA] – well below the \$843.020 billion in BA provided by the budget resolution. This is largely the result of a formulation under which affected projects or activities are funded at the *lower* of the current rate of operations in 2005, or the amount provided in appropriations bills passed by either the House or Senate as of 1 October 2005 – and under the terms and conditions that applied in 2005.

With fiscal year 2006 starting on Saturday, the measure is needed to continue funding for programs contained in the nine regular appropriations bills that have yet to be enacted. It applies through 18 November 2005; but under congressional procedures, annualized estimates are customary for such continuing resolutions.

The continuing resolution [CR] provides for ongoing government operations covered by bills awaiting final action

until either: 1) the enactment of a regular appropriation covering the project or activity; or 2) the expiration of the CR. The CR does not affect mandatory spending programs – that is, programs not subject to the annual appropriations process.

The CR temporarily authorizes discretionary spending for certain specified activities. These include Medicare appeals; certain Defense personnel policies (such as the expanded death gratuity and housing benefits for families of deceased servicemembers); administrative expenses of the Federal Transit Administration; and the use of certain agencies' franchise funds.

The measure also includes language providing that contingency funding needed for the global war on terrorism is not counted against the allocations of budget authority (see further discussion below). This is consistent with the intent of the budget resolution for fiscal year 2006 (H.Con.Res. 95).

Table 1: Continuing Resolution for Fiscal Year 2006
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2005 Incl. Emergency	2005 Excl. Emergency	302 (a) for 2006	CR*
Budget Authority	985,918	840,478	843,020	813,995
Outlays	963,947	929,638	916,836	897,441

^a Does not include \$47.743 billion in BA and \$86.891 billion in outlays are provided for overseas operations of the Department of Defense, and are not included in the allocation to the Appropriations Committee under the budget resolution.

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

As shown in Table 1 above, the full-year cost of this continuing resolution results in discretionary spending that is \$29.025 billion below the \$843.020 billion in budget authority [BA] provided to the Appropriations Committee

by the budget resolution. Table 2, below, shows that for each of the bills covered under the CR, spending will be less than its respective 302(b) suballocation. As noted, this reflects the impact of requiring that the measure contain the

(continued on reverse side)

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lower of current rate or House or Senate-passed appropriations. Without this formulation – that is, under the current-rate CRs common in recent years – most

subcommittees would have been over their suballocations, and the entire CR would have been almost \$87 billion above the 302(a) allocation set by the budget resolution.

**Table 2: Discretionary Spending Provided in the Continuing Resolution
By House Appropriations Subcommittee***
(in millions of dollars)

	2006 302(b) Budget Authority	2006 302(b) Outlays	2006 CR Budget Authority	2006 CR Outlays	Difference BA	Difference Outlays
Agriculture	16,832	18,691	16,566	18,323	-266	-368
Commerce, Justice, State	57,453	58,856	54,000	56,146	-3,453	-2,710
Defense	363,440	372,696	351,302	364,118	-12,138	-8,578
Energy and Water Development	29,746	30,273	29,162	29,913	-584	-360
Foreign Operations	20,270	25,080	19,255	24,699	-1,015	-381
Homeland Security	30,846	33,233	28,743	31,877	-2,103	-1,356
Labor, Health and Human Services	142,514	143,802	141,080	143,150	-1,434	-652
Military Quality of Life - VA	85,158	81,634	79,336	78,930	-5,822	-2,704
Treasury, Transportation, Housing and Urban Development	66,935	120,837	64,588	117,716	-2,347	-3,121
Total	784,032	864,872	813,194	885,532	-29,162	-20,660

^a Does not include amounts provided for contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

H.J.Res. 68 fully complies with the provisions of the Congressional Budget Act. As noted, the bill provides budget authority below the levels set by the budget

resolution in total as well as by subcommittee. No points of order for violation of the allocation will lie against the measure.

AUTHORIZATION AND OTHER ISSUES

The House-passed Defense bill included appropriations designated as necessary for the continued operations related to the global war on terrorism. In addition, the enacted 2005 appropriations measures contained emergency-designated appropriations related to the conflict in Iraq. In determining whether a program would receive lower funding under the House-passed or 2005 appropriations measures, these designations are not taken into account. (The Senate has not yet passed the Defense appropriations measure.) To ensure that under the CR funding pertaining to the costs of the global war on terrorism are not counted against the allocation – as intended by the budget resolution – the CR included language to designate that such funding is necessary for contingency operations related to the global war on terrorism pursuant to section 402 of the budget resolution for fiscal year 2006.

As noted, the continuing resolution does not contain language affecting mandatory programs under the jurisdiction of authorizing committees. It does, however, include language that provides guidance in how appropriated funds should be spent that normally would be considered by the authorizing committees. These include policies related to spending by the State, Defense, Treasury, and Transportation Departments, as well as the Social Security Administration, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Science Foundation and the District of Columbia.

The authorizing language was requested by the Office of Management and Budget to ensure that the legal authority existed to carry out the purposes of the CR. None of the provisions adds to the cost of the bill.

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